

## PRODUCTION NOTES

They were a broken nation, a people scattered and living in darkness. But God had given them a Promise, the dream of a Messiah. For centuries they hoped and waited for Him. He came. Sadly, most of them missed Him...

This Christmas the Messiah longs to fill the hearts and homes of His people like never before. Do not miss Him. Let your church come alive with the sights and sounds of *Awaiting Emmanuel, The Promise Revealed*.

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*Awaiting Emmanuel* unfolds the breathtaking story of how the God of Israel birthed the dream of a Messiah into the soul of His people. Created by Mark Gersmehl and John Thorn, *Awaiting Emmanuel* weaves Scripture, song, and video into a visual and musical tapestry that is fresh and current yet still colored with the timeless beauty of a traditional Christmas. Furthermore, *Awaiting Emmanuel* can be scaled to fit the production and musical skills of your church. Bring out the best in your people by augmenting and highlighting their gifts with:

**Music** designed for today's church. *Awaiting Emmanuel* builds on the cornerstone of the worship band and amplifies it with available tracks and charts that you choose to fit your needs. Enrich and strengthen your performance with loops, stems, and accompaniment tracks. The Christmas season is a wonderful opportunity to enlarge and deepen your worship community beyond your usual Sunday morning team. Your *Awaiting Emmanuel* choir will bless your congregation as they lead them in songs and traditional carols crafted with exquisite musical care...

**Videos** that showcase the hues and textures of historic Israel and give visual meaning to Messianic prophecies. Driven by powerful Scripture-based narratives, your screens will tell the story of the Messiah in concise and understandable imagery. In addition, *Awaiting Emmanuel* provides prop and costuming ideas that will easily enhance your production...

The world has fallen on hard times of late. A lot of people feel weary and a little short of hope. But God gave us all a Promise and He kept His Word. This year invite your city to celebrate the joy of Christmas at your church where you will be "*Awaiting Emmanuel, The Promise Revealed*."

## The Elements of Awaiting Emmanuel

### **Videos**

There is simply no better way to tell the most beautiful story in the world than to use the very Word of God itself. The videos of *Awaiting Emmanuel* are filled with Scripture and enhance the storyline through soundscapes and narration. In addition, they greatly facilitate the traffic flow onstage. The videos are:

Awaiting Pre-Service Music (A ten minute pre-roll and countdown)

The Promise Micah 5:2-5

The Waiting Narrative

The Waiting Reflection

The Annunciation-Luke 1: 26-28

The Promise Revealed-Luke 2:1-20

### **Songs**

The Light- Band

Rejoice, Rejoice- Choir/Band

O Come, O Come Emmanuel -Band/Track/Soloists

Waiting- Duet/Piano/Guitar (or track)

Waiting Reprise- Choir a cappella

Should I Call Him King?- Band (or track)/Soloists

Heaven Came Down- Band/Soloist

The Christmas Medley- Band/Choir/Soloist

Awaiting Emmanuel- Band (or Youth Band)/Soloists

Arise- Choir/track

Glory Alleluia- Band/Choir/Soloist

Joy To The World- Band/Choir

## **Order of Service**

Awaiting Pre-Service Music (A ten minute pre-roll and countdown)

The Light- Band

Rejoice, Rejoice- Choir/Band

The Promise Micah 5:2-5

O Come, O Come Emmanuel -Band/Track/Soloists

The Waiting Narrative

Waiting- Duet/Piano/Guitar (or track)

The Waiting Reflection

Waiting Reprise- Choir a cappella

The Annunciation-Luke 1: 26-28

Should I Call Him King?- Band (or track)/Soloists

The Promise Revealed-Luke 2:1-20

Gabriel's Reprise (see "The Program")

Heaven Came Down- Band/Soloist

The Christmas Medley- Band/Choir/Soloist

Awaiting Emmanuel- Band (or Youth Band)/Soloists

Arise- Choir/track

Glory Alleluia- Band/Choir/Soloist

Joy To The World- Band/Choir

## **Casting/Actors:**

The acting parts are non-speaking.

**Mary**-can be a singing role, but if the best singer for *Should I Call Him King* does not fit the visual and age requirements for the Mary character, you can use a non-singing actor.

**Gabriel**-Can also be a singing role, but it is not essential.

**Joseph**

**3 shepherds**

*Living statues: Small yet important roles*

**King David**

**Isaiah**

**Cyrus**

**Antiochus Epiphanes**

**Pompey**

**2 Roman Soldiers**

Living statues appear during The Waiting Narrative. They bring a unique element to the story by visually enhancing the video, soundscape and narrative.

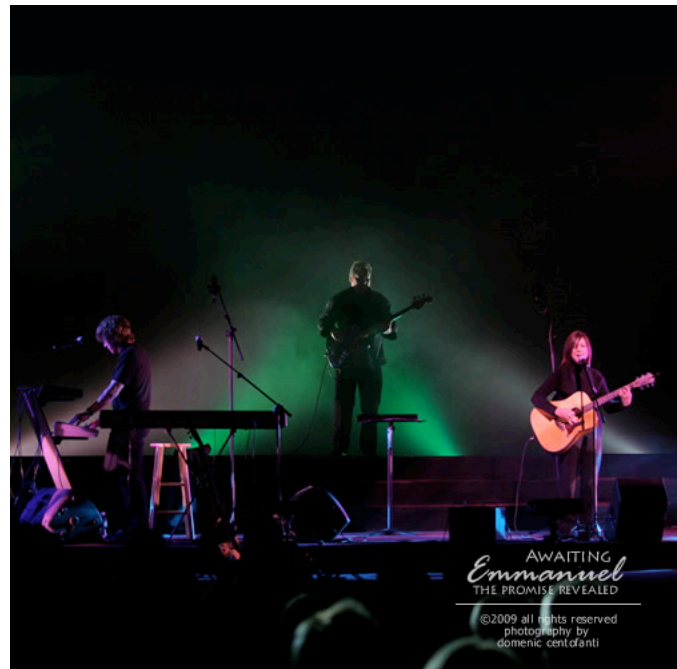
Casting Tip: We found that people love being the living statues. But If you are short-handed, look to the choir for casting the living statues; this also allows the choir members to be more involved in telling the story.

A doll can be used for the baby Jesus.

## Costuming

(To view additional pictures of costumes, please visit the photo gallery at [AwaitingEmmanuel.com](http://AwaitingEmmanuel.com))

**Choir and band:** Dress them in black pants and a black shirt so as not to interfere with the lighting, set or biblical characters. In addition, some of the choir can change into biblical dress if you choose to use them as town's people during the "Waiting Reprise". (See production notes for SONG 5, The Waiting Reprise.)



**All other cast members:** Biblical dress. Some helpful hints for costuming include:

- Handmade costumes are a great choice and look best when constructed of heavy, textured fabric of contrasting colors in multiple layers. Drapery and upholstery fabric are good options and can be purchased for minimum cost from thrift stores or clearance bins at a fabric store.
- Layers can include sleeveless robes, sashes tied diagonally across the upper body, and large ropes and fabric scraps tied as belts around the waist. Fabric can also be wrapped or draped around the head to complete the biblical style.

- **Roman soldiers:** Local/online costume stores are a good option for finding costumes for these characters, as well as for purchasing accessories to provide a finished look for the other cast members.



- **Shepherds, Israelites, Isaiah and Joseph:** Robes in muted colors and simple, plain accessories.



Shepherds



Isaiah



Joseph

- **Mary:** White or light colored/light blue robe. This will make her 'glow' during The Annunciation scene.  
**Gabriel:** White flowing gown. If you can obtain wings for him, this is a nice touch, but not essential.



Mary



Gabriel (and Mary)

- **King David, Cyrus, Antiochus and Pompey:** These robes should be flashier, incorporating royal colors and fabrics that are richer, like velvet, or fabric elements that have sheen, like satin. Accessories for these characters can include gold rope belts, jewelry, or medallions that are in keeping with the time period.



King David



Pompey



Cyrus

## Lighting

Lighting is a critical element in unfolding the story of Awaiting Emmanuel. Your LD will be your master painter as the storyline moves from the dark blue and mysterious hues that portray the anguished nation of Israel to the ever-dawning beautiful golden light following the birth of Emmanuel.

Lighting options with Awaiting Emmanuel are enormously flexible. If you have a lighting rig with moving lights at your church, great - use them all. But don't be dismayed if your church can't afford all those technical treats. Even though you are telling an ancient story, there is a starkly modern feel to AE provided by the living statues and the sound of the music. Be creative! Have fun!

If you do have the budget and are interested in bringing in an event lighting specialist, we offer a recommendation in the resources section at the end of the production notes.

## Set

The sleek simplicity of Awaiting Emmanuel allows for many options to fit your sanctuary. You don't need the stage at the Kennedy Center to perform AE. In fact, the platform of the church where AE was born is anything but huge. Keep in mind that you are telling an ancient tale in a fresh new way. The dust of Israel portrayed in the videos and the rustic look of the stable and shepherd's scenes will provide the look back in time. The living statues and the starkness of the stage will lend a crisp current interpretation to the tale.

Start with a clean stage and build from there. To enhance that uncluttered look and feel, we wrapped the lighting trusses in black and placed black scrim over the front of all the risers. In fact, cover anything in black that would suggest this is a usual Sunday morning.

There are 5 main staging areas for AE. We will tell you where we placed our scenes, but no one knows your building better than you! Let your creative inner eye set your stage.

- **Shepherd scene:** An outdoor campfire scene. We positioned ours downstage left. The set included a rock wall (approximately two feet high), two trees and a camp fire. The rock wall was comprised of a canvas tarp painted to look like stones, and draped over some wooden benches without backs. You could also use bales of hay instead of wooden benches. The mechanical fire was purchased at a Halloween store. We stacked real wood around the base to hide its metal casing. The shepherds huddled around the campfire while sitting on the rock wall. A fake campfire may also be purchased at Amazon.com. In addition, you can find directions on the internet for constructing one of your own. **DO NOT USE A REAL FLAME.** *Also, make sure your shepherd set is not too far away from the stable set, as the shepherds have to walk from this set to the stable during the Luke 2 video.*



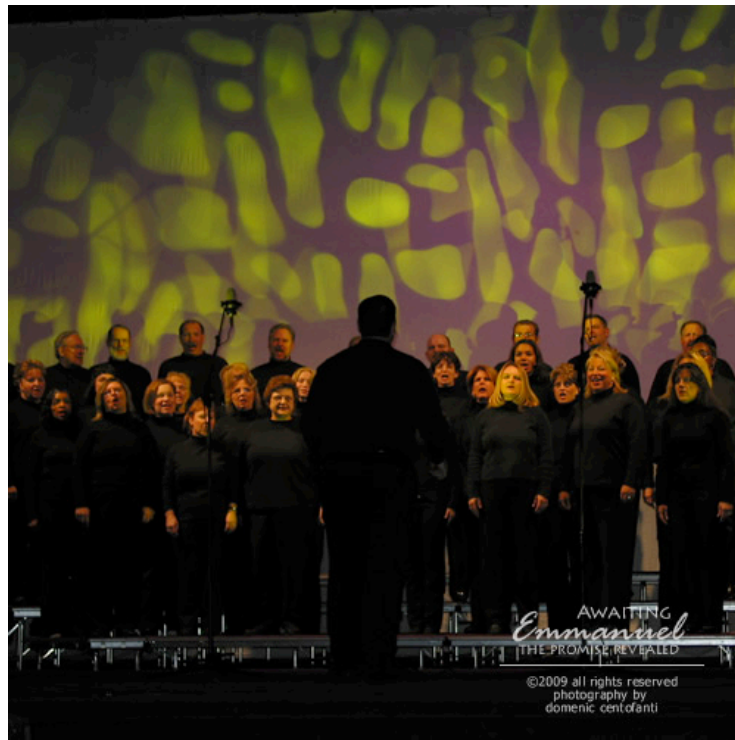
Shepherd Scene (stage left)

- **Stable scene:** A small shed-like structure, a manger and a straw floor. We placed ours downstage stage right. This structure must be able to fit Mary, Joseph, a manger and 3 shepherds. The stable will need to be hidden under black fabric until the Luke 2 video.



Stable Scene–Stage Right

- **Choir:** The choir should be on risers. We positioned the risers upstage center. For the flow of the show, it is crucial that the choir can exit and re-enter the stage during the videos without disruption. For safety purposes, it is extremely important to have stage hands with flashlights to assist the choir's entrances and exits. Glow tape is essential. If you have a large stage, you may want to position your choir off-center to facilitate movement between scenes. However, keep in mind Christmas is a wonderful time to feature your volunteer choir that serves you all year long so placing them in the center is a great way to honor them.



- **Band:** The core rhythm section for AE is arranged for bass, drums, electric guitar, piano and keyboards and acoustic guitars. We positioned them middle stage center in front of the choir.



- **Three living statue “pods”:** Wooden boxes used to elevate the living statues that appear in the Waiting Narrative. We positioned them between the stage and the audience 10 feet apart, but you will need to space them according to your situation, making sure they obscure sight lines as little as possible. Simple design is crucial. The more they blend in the better.

Our pods were constructed with  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch plywood. They were 30” X 30”, stood 36 inches high, and were painted black. Steps on the stage side with glow in the dark tape allowed the living statues to climb up and down the pods with assistance from a stage hand.



Pods



You will need 3 of these

## **The Program**

### VIDEO

#### **Awaiting Pre-Service Music**

The Awaiting Prelude is a ten minute prelude that interweaves the melodic theme of "Waiting" with traditional carols. The Awaiting Pre-Roll should be started exactly ten minutes before you want the service to begin. The first five minutes allow for people to come into the sanctuary, find their seats, and quietly converse. However, once it reaches the five minute mark, the accompanying video comes to life with the Old Testament names of God. Flash the house lights at three minutes because at one minute and fifteen seconds you want to start fading to black so the band and choir can take the stage.

### SONG 1

#### **The Light-Band/Soloists/Choir**

The opening line of "The Light" sets the tone for the musical. "The whole world is straining, looking for a star." Ancient Israel was looking for a star in the east. Our image-obsessed society looks for stars in the west. What we all need is The Light of the world. Start building that creative tension with your lighting.

### SONG 2

#### **Rejoice, Rejoice-Band/Choir**

"Rejoice, Rejoice" amplifies that creative tension. It is a song of celebration infused with a subtle bittersweet tone. "Rejoice, Rejoice oh Israel, your Messiah soon will come." He will come, won't He? Light the choir, but not too much, We have a long way to go....

### VIDEO

#### **The Promise-Micah 5:2-5**

Micah 5 takes the audience back to a time in Scripture when God speaks to Israel and promises to send them a Messiah. The stage should be black and the audience focused on the video screens. The choir exits the stage. Any choir members that will be living statues or town's people should change into costume.

### SONG 3

#### **Oh Come, Oh Come Emmanuel-Band/Soloist**

The arrangement of this achingly beautiful traditional carol is augmented by a worshipful section. We positioned the players on different risers and lit them to accent the space in between them. (See the photo gallery at [AwaitingEmmanuel.com](http://AwaitingEmmanuel.com))

## VIDEO

### **The Waiting Narrative-Living Statues**

The “Waiting Narrative” condenses hundreds of years of hardship and oppression endured by the Israelites into a four minute and twenty-two second video collage.

The actors playing the living statues should be in costume, lined up and ready to take their place on the pods.

The order of the statue’s appearance is:

King David (1:08) middle pod

Isaiah (2:23) Stand with hands open-pod stage right

Cyrus (2:55) Pod stage left

Antiochus Epiphanes (3:16) Cross arms and look evil-pod stage right

Pompey /Roman Soldiers (3:47) 3 pods at once-Pompey in the middle

As the Waiting Narrative unfolds, each living statue is lit only as long as he is being referred to in the story. Use 3 different pods so the attention of the audience moves around the room as the story unfolds. This will also make it easier for them to get on and off the pods. The goal is to make the living statues as prominent and well-lit as possible.

The actor should not move (remember, he is a statue).

Lighting Tip: Lighting the living statues can be done in a variety of ways, depending on your lighting capabilities and budget. If you have limited resources, you can use a spot light or a floor light pointing straight up at the statue. If you have more lighting at your disposal you can light from above the statue. If you mount your lighting fixture as high as possible you will increase the dramatic effect by adding to the length and size of the beam.

## SONG 4

### **Waiting-Duet**

A duet with for a male and a female singer.

*Option one:* Have the duet dressed in biblical attire surrounded by Israelites in biblical costume. The Israelites must be choir members so they can sing the Waiting Reprise (SONG 5.) When the duet begins singing, the Israelites would stop any movement and only the singers would be lit. The performers can enter the stage during the Waiting Narrative.

*Option two:* Dress the two singers in black clothing. Highlight the two singers and softly backlight the piano player and guitarist.

## VIDEO

### **Waiting Reflection**

Something amazing happens in this little one minute and twenty-five second video, something only God’s Word can do. As the Scripture passages about “waiting” appear, the audience begins to feel the suffering of Israel mingle with the longing they sense in their own lives. We are crossing an emotional bridge.

The choir can quickly and quietly take their place on the risers. This is also the time for the band to exit the stage.

## SONG 5

### **The Waiting Reprise** Choir-a cappella

*Option one:* The members of the choir that are 'extras' dressed in biblical costumes (including the singers of *Waiting*) can sing from their place on the stage, Any additional choir members would be on the risers dressed in black.

*Option 2:* The entire choir is on the risers and sings from there.

## VIDEO

### **The Annunciation Luke 1:26-38**

We had Gabriel and Mary stand upstage on the highest choir riser, facing each other 7' to 10' apart. We backlit them from the floor with 2 moving lights. If you don't have access to moving lights, par cans will work, but I'd recommend 1000 watt bulbs for brightness.

For heightened dramatic effect, have Gabriel and Mary memorize the parts of scripture that are being spoken by each of their characters. Have them mouth some or all of the words that correspond with the narration on the video. Even though they remain stationary, both can employ subtle flowing hand gestures to add mystery and beauty to this evocative scene.

We used moving lights to softly illuminate the faces of Mary and Gabriel when speaking. Par cans would work as well. We also employed heavy stage fog to further create a mysterious, angelic feel. This is a wonderful moment for your LD to use his or her creative gifts.

(You can go to [AwaitingEmmanuel.com](http://AwaitingEmmanuel.com) and click on the photo gallery to see the effects used in this scene.)

## SONG 6

### **Should I Call Him King?** Band/Duet

The band re-enters the stage.

If your Mary and Gabriel in the Annunciation Luke 1 scene are also your singers, bring them downstage in front of the band. Gabriel can walk more slowly than Mary so that his arrival downstage coincides with his singing part in the bridge of the song.

If your Mary and Gabriel are not your singers, bring the female vocalist in from the wings at the start of the song and have the male vocalist enter from the opposite side in time for the bridge. In our production, Gabriel exited at the intro of the song. Mary slowly came downstage, sat on a stool and watched the female singer. It was a very intriguing moment.

Note: It is tempting to want to over-produce this moment into something more than the song, but I assure you the song is more than enough to captivate your audience.

## VIDEO

### **The Promise Revealed Luke 2:1-20** Choir

This video is 6:32 so you have plenty of time to let things unfold.

In the Luke 2 video, the New Testament names of God appear on the screen. During this time, (the first 2:50) the stable should be uncovered, Mary and Joseph take their positions in the stable, and the shepherds take their places on the shepherd set.

The choir can also take their places on the risers. Note: If you have choir robes, it is a nice effect to have the choir change into the robes for this scene...especially if the robes are lighter in color. It gives them an angelic look.

When the narrator says, “and she brought forth her first born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes...” (at 2:50) the lighting should come up on Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus in the stable.

Gabriel takes his position on the center pod (in darkness)

At 3:18 when the narrator says, “shepherds abiding in the field”, the lights should come up on the shepherds.

When the narrator says, “And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them and the glory of the Lord shone ‘round about them and they were sore afraid”, Gabriel should be lit. Upon seeing Gabriel, the shepherds should act afraid.

When the narrator says, “And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts”, the lights need to come up on the choir as they sing “Glory to God in the Highest”.

After the eight bar Glory To God section, the Angels (choir) and Gabriel go to black.

The shepherds then make their way with haste over to the stable and bow before the baby Jesus.

When the narrator says, “And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen...” the shepherds get up excitedly and return to the other side of the stage.

Lighting Tip: Up to this point, your LD has kept a disciplined creative hand on the color palette in the room. The wonder and promise of Luke 1/The Annunciation marked the first point when those darker hues of suffering and longing began to subtly morph. Luke 2 changes everything! The simple rustic beauty of the birth of the Messiah combined with the transcendent glory of the chorus of angels begins a dawning of hope and light that crescendos steadily all the way to the triumphant end of Joy To The World. Let the wonder of this astonishing story guide your hands on the faders.

Both the shepherd and stable scenes were lit from the front with moving lights as they made their appearance in the story. Both scenes were then faded to black as the video ended.

**Gabriel’s Reprise**-This is a wonderful opportunity to have the worship leader or pastor speak blessings over the congregation. Over two thousand years ago, Mary was “greatly troubled” at Gabriel’s words. “How can this be?” she asked.

Lately, our world has fallen on hard times. There is a reasonably good chance that more than a few people in your congregation are “greatly troubled”. “How can this be?” they ask. “How can our lives change?” The answer to those questions is the same for us as it was for Mary two thousand years ago. Sing over them the words of Gabriel, “The Spirit will come upon you, His power will overwhelm you, nothing is impossible with God.” After a few refrains, have someone on the worship team lead the congregation in Mary’s response, “Lord, my heart’s wide open, may it be just as You’ve spoken.”

Mary did not realize that the Messiah, the Savior of the world was going to be inside her. If we confess with our lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead He will be inside us as well...

#### SONG 7

##### **Heaven Came Down** Band/Soloist /Choir

Emmanuel, God is with us. This song tenderly celebrates the beauty of that reality. If dance is a part of your worship and arts department, Heaven Came Down is the perfect chance to portray that truth in motion.

#### SONG 8

##### **The Christmas Medley** Band/Soloist/Choir/Congregation

There is hardly a thing in the world better than singing carols at Christmas with people you love. Your worship team and choir suddenly got really big! Wholeheartedly invite the congregation to celebrate this festive moment with your team. The Christmas Medley for Awaiting Emmanuel includes: “Angels We Have Heard on High”, an original chorus, “Glory to God in the Highest”, “Oh Come Let Us Adore Him” and “Silent Night”.

Make sure you have the lyrics on the screen for the congregation to sing along.

#### SONG 9

##### **Awaiting Emmanuel** Band/Soloists/Choir

Awaiting Emmanuel is an excellent opportunity to use singers and players from your youth program. This song is full of energy. The youth in your church will love to see their friends sing and play.

#### SONG 10

##### **Arise** Choir/Track

The Light is shining! **Arise** is the moment for your faithful volunteer choir to shine as well. Bathe them in beautiful light!

The band can stand to the side.

## SONG 11

### **Glory Alleluia** Band/Soloist/Choir/Congregation

The band returns to the stage. This is a full-on worship song. Make sure you have lyrics for the congregation. We had five girls from the youth group learn sign language for this song. Their contribution was simply amazing and exponentially raised the celebration in the room. We positioned them downstage in front of the band. Dress them simply in black pants and shirts.

This song can also be done long after Christmas for your regular worship service.

## SONG 12

### **Joy to the World** Band/Choir

Joy To The World! The Promise Has Been Revealed! This song ends **Awaiting Emmanuel** by triumphantly completing the lyric found in the very first song. The Light Of The World Has Come!

## **Production Resources**

Photographs – Please visit [AwaitingEmmanuel.com](http://AwaitingEmmanuel.com) to view the photo gallery for more ideas for lighting, costuming, stage setup and props.

Production Help – Have production or technical questions? Please feel free to contact us at: [johnthorn@awaitingemmanuel.com](mailto:johnthorn@awaitingemmanuel.com)

Event Lighting – We recommend Odyssey Lighting. Their creativity and professionalism are unmatched! Visit [OdysseyLightingUSA.com](http://OdysseyLightingUSA.com) for details and contact information.

Event Marketing/Print Materials – Awaiting Emmanuel invitations, posters, flyers are available as customizable, print-ready Adobe files or as finished product. Visit [StudioSplash.com/ae](http://StudioSplash.com/ae) for samples and ordering details.

# Narration Script

## **The Promise-Micah 5:2-5**

“But you Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.

Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.

He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

And He will be their peace.”

## Waiting–Narrative

They were God’s people. Of this they were certain, for God Himself had told them. Long ago, He spoke to their forefather Abraham and said, “I will make of you a great nation and will bless you, and all peoples on earth will be blessed by you.” Israel was chosen, bound by a covenant with the one and only true God, set apart from all the other nations on earth.

Yet great tragedy fell upon them. Enslaved in Egypt, they escaped only to wander in a desert for forty years. Finally they entered the Promised Land where they put down roots in the soil of Canaan. There the children of Israel thrived and prospered, led by a brilliant leader and warrior named David, a musician king who enraptured the hearts of the people with the beauty of his psalms and songs.

They grew rich and confident. Were they too confident? Not long after the death of David, the people squabbled and bickered. They served other gods. The nation split in two. Soon powerful enemies besieged them on every side. “God, come and save us,” the people cried. He did not come.

In 723, the northern kingdom of Israel was swept away by the Assyrians. Less than a hundred and fifty years later, Judah was crushed by the Babylonians, its people carried off into captivity. By the waters of Babylon they wept. Still, He did not come.

Yet deep in the soul of Israel, the seeds of a dream began to grow. The great prophet Isaiah had foretold it. A child, born of a virgin, Emmanuel, God with us, would be born. He would reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. A Messiah. The Suffering Servant. The Savior.

A gracious Persian king named Cyrus allowed a remnant of Israel to go back to their land and rebuild their temple in Jerusalem. But the Messiah did not come. Then the mighty armies of the Greeks overran Canaan. One of their rulers, an evil man named Antiochus Epiphanes, profaned the temple of the living God by setting up statues of Greek gods within its walls and sacrificing pigs on the altar of the holy of holies. Still the Messiah did not come. A handful of brave men revolted and overthrew the armies of the Greek king. Yet barely one hundred years later, the Roman emperor Pompey trampled across the land of Israel and Jerusalem once more lay in ruins. But the Messiah did not come...

## **The Annunciation Luke 1:26-38**

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said."

## The Promise Revealed Luke 2:1-20

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.